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I have another proposition to make for our section. We have found a practical difficulty in our advancement of the study of French and German in the variety of nomenclature that is used in the books relating to these languages. The tenses, for instance, are sometimes called in three, or four, or five different manners. This is a source of trouble to students in passing from one college to another, or to college from a lower school. I believe that the recommendations of this Association, addressed to the editors of such works, would find them ready to make such changes in their works as would in that respect facilitate the study of these languages. I would, therefore, move that the President appoint a committee of five who will investigate this matter and report to the next Convention upon the practical feasibility of recommending to the publishing houses the necessity of uniformity in French and German grammatical nomenclature.

The report was adopted and the President in accordance with the motion therein contained, appointed the following gentlemen a committee on Uniform Grammatical Nomenclature for French and German: A. N. VAN DAELL (Mass. Institute of Technology), ADOLPHE COHN (Harvard), M. D. LEARNED (Johns Hopkins), H. SCHMIDT-WARTENBERG (Univ. of South Dakota), A. R. HOHLFELD (Vanderbilt).

Prof. VAN DAELL then said:—

I think it would be a pleasant thing for the Association to hold a meeting in some of the European Universities and I move, therefore, that the Secretary be requested to confer with educational men throughout the country with reference to the feasibility of holding the Convention of 1892 in Europe.

The motion was carried and Prof. ELLIOTT remarked that he would with pleasure proceed to carry out the instructions given him, believing that such a meeting, if possible, would be one of very great interest.

Prof. WM. M. BASKERVILL then read a paper on

7. Southern Literature.

The President said that the discussion would be opened by Prof. JOYNES, who probably knows more about the South than any other professor present.

Professor JOYNES said:—

Mr. President, your compliment quite overcomes my modesty. I wish I did know a great deal more; indeed, I wish I knew the South as well as I love it. I am very glad to welcome that paper. I am

glad to welcome the whole programme of this meeting, with its firm and broad tendency to literary discussion. This kind of work is altogether in line with the purposes of this Association, whose constitution declares expressly that its first aim is to promote literary culture, while linguistic and philological training are properly made secondary. I am glad to see that during this meeting literary considerations have so largely occupied the time. It is particularly proper at our first meeting in the South, in this rising Southern University where so much attention is paid to our mother-tongue and to the literature of English, that we should be greeted with a paper of this sort on the history, condition and prospects of Southern literature. The paper itself is so full, so exhaustive, written with such fullness of knowledge and of discussion, that there is indeed but little left for me to say. I am not only glad to hear it read, but I am also particularly glad that the printer's devil—well named—got hold of the manuscript and gave us yesterday in full this interesting essay.

It is true, lamentably true, that the past of the South is not a literary past. The greatness of Southern civilization and of Southern intellect and of Southern character has not prominently expressed itself in literary form, but surely that history is not null which, representing a small minority of the people of the country, for a hundred years had produced the dominating types of citizenship; nor that power which by statesmanship and political philosophy guided this nation through its early perils, and extended its dominion from ocean to ocean. That has been done, we must all admit, mainly by Southern intellect, Southern genius and Southern character; and if to our credit there had not been a line of literature proper, the career of the South would have been not without honor. I agree with the author of this paper that we are to look to the future for the development of Southern literature. The present period is one of transition. Whatever might have been the genius of the early Southern poet or romancer just after the war, the conditions were altogether unfavorable to the permanent development of strong types of literature. But I believe that this is only a period of transition, and do not think it possible that such a period can pass away without producing a rich and ample fruit in the literary unfolding of Southern genius, in types of literature that shall be glorious and enduring. Looking to the coming of such a literature, the author of this paper has admirably touched upon a few of its proper and essential topics. I repeat almost his words when I say, that it is the mission of Southern literature to preserve from oblivion those characteristics and types of character, such as the Creole of Louisiana, the Georgia cracker, the Tennessee mountaineer and other most striking and interesting, and romantic, even poetic types of Southern character. If these things are not embalmed in Southern literature they will pass away and be forgotten. The spread of railroads and, if I may use the expression without being misunderstood, the still more destructive spread of the

common school system, reducing all types of civilization to a certain uniformity of teaching and of custom, are encroaching upon these peculiar local types to which we had occasion yesterday to refer in the interesting discussion upon Southern dialects. But apart from these peculiar and characteristic types, it is a still higher mission for Southern literature to depict that old planter life, that magnificent modern feudalism, if I may so call it, which has been the nursery of those high types of Southern character, Southern intellect, Southern manliness, Southern statesmanship, of that intelligent and individual love for liberty which the author of our paper has accounted as the gift of the South to the Union. That is a magnificent field for the exercise of Southern genius, to redeem from oblivion that social condition in the South which is passing away, has almost passed away, but which was the nursery, as I have said, of that which was most glorious and characteristic in Southern life and Southern history, and ought to be for us and our descendants, I trust, most precious to be remembered and to be handed down to posterity. It has ceased to play its part in the history of the present and the future, but it can never cease to be a heritage pleasant to the country at large, and a pride to those who had the privilege to remember it and to be descended from its prototypes.

There is another topic barely touched upon which I wish I had the ability and the opportunity to dwell upon at length. I hope my Northern friends here will not be offended when I say that it is the high mission of Southern literature to write the epic of African slavery in America, not merely of the negro himself, with his peculiar dialect and his interesting types of character, but the epic of that great institution of African slavery which brought into existence and highest cultivation the most masterful and patriotic and noble traits of an eminent race, and which in a little more than a century educated a race of barbarians to civilization, to freedom, and alas that I should have to say—no I will not say—to suffrage. But never in the history of the world has any race of men passed so rapidly from utter barbarism to a capacity for freedom, for self-dependence, for Christianity. That epic, which is the highest mission of Southern literature, will not be altogether an “*Iliad of Woes*.” Only, as my friend said, the “*Sable wing of African slavery*” has been exhibited; but even on that sable wing there was a “*silver lining*,” and it should be the pleasure of all the Southern people to preserve the recollection of those mutual and reciprocal traits of the master and the slave, the tender protection and sympathy of the one, the fidelity, affection and devotion of the other, which is in the heart of every Southern man and woman who remembers those times. The Abolition propaganda before the war, the passions of the war itself, and the subsequent horrors of reconstruction, have necessarily had the effect of leaving our Northern friends to see but one side of the sable wing of slavery. It is for Southern literature, with the passions of the war assuaged

and all its horrors buried in the past, to take hold of this institution of African slavery, which has been so much misrepresented and misunderstood, and typify and illustrate it, in the light of its historic truth. Those beautiful and tender and humane traits which everywhere over the Southern country prevailed, with a few isolated exceptions, give a certain sacredness and tenderness, even beauty, to an institution that had been imposed upon the South through political necessity, and which I do not hesitate to say the Southern people in the main bore nobly and truly. I regard that as a field full of romance, full of poetry, full of love, full of everything that is tender and touching and true, which it is the mission of Southern literature to embalm and immortalize.

It is also the mission of Southern literature to write a Southern history of the war, a Southern history, not merely of battles, but of the principles which necessitated the war, and of the events which followed it. I for one, Mr. President, want that history written impartially and seeking the truth, it is true, but written from a Southern standpoint. I hope that the heart of that historian will be inspired and his pen touched with a loyal fidelity to the principles and traditions and sentiments which led the Southern people into the war, with which they fought it, and with which they have borne and are now bearing the sorrows and burdens that may have been imposed upon them. Not that I believe that history would be any more the true history of the future than a like history written from the Northern standpoint, but that out of the two, from both sides of the shield exhibited in their own individual truth and truthfulness, the historian of the future may eliminate the true history which is to endure forever. Though we may have a new South, we should be true to the old South; and while Southern history is now to some extent the history of new conditions, it is essential to the historical continuity of the Southern people that no attempt shall be made to break with the old traditions and sentiments, which can furnish the only true foundations of a true Southern literature. And I hold it to be in part the duty of our universities and colleges and schools, in their text-books and in their teaching, to be at all times true to the principles and the traditions and the sentiments of our Southern people. I agree entirely with Professor BASKERVILL in the hope that no Southern author will ever write, nor any Southern school ever teach, a history in which the word "rebellion" occurs.

I thank Mr. BASKERVILL for his exceedingly interesting paper and for its stimulating effect, and I look forward personally—though I may not live to see it—to the coming bloom of Southern literature: and in all its departments, however much it may be a literature of the new South, I trust that it will be true to the principles and traditions and characteristics of the glorious old South.

As allusion was made to South Carolina and Virginia. I would like to call upon my colleague from South Carolina whose depart-

ment makes him more familiar with the works of Southern literature than my own. I ask Prof. WOODWARD to represent the state of South Carolina.

Prof. F. C. WOODWARD (Univ. of South Carolina) said :—

I would thank Prof. BASKERVILL for having presented us with the very interesting material which he has gathered to show the evolution, or rather the non-evolution, of the literature of the South. I hope I have nothing in me of sectionalism. Whenever there is any responsibility, political or literary, to be borne in this country I want to share it along with my Northern brethren, so I would extend the query and ask, Why have we so little *American* Literature? and would answer by asking, How could we in America have had a literature? We have no biographies of babies. They would be but the records of pains and squalls, the chronicle of stone-bruises and broken limbs. The reason why we have no literature is that we are too young. I am not speaking of purple patches here and there and the occasional sound of a voice that promised literary development and literary beauty; I am speaking of the literature as a body; literature as the expression of national life filled with thought and feeling. A nation never has a literature when it is young. We are yet barely out of swaddling clothes, and we have scarcely more than the promise of literature. There has been one voice of fiction, HAWTHORNE'S; one voice of poetry, POE'S,—an EMERSON and a LOWELL, and beyond these so far as century plants are concerned within the whole reach of our territory, only here and there a small sprout beginning. I do not expect a great literature yet; I do not wish it now. When England had been a nation eight hundred years it had hardly the beginnings of literature. It might have been supposed then when CHAUCER touched his harp the beginning was made, but lo! CHAUCER passes and England waits two hundred years for its highest poetry. From the time of Elizabeth we claim that its literature dated. The appearance and song of CHAUCER were like some bird who was rudely awakened in the early hours of the morning. It piped a note in anticipation of the day it thought to be at hand, but finding that the dawn came not in response to its cry, it tucked its head beneath its wing, and sank to sleep again. But we will look forward with hope in the promise of a bloom-time of literature that is to come. I am satisfied that we shall have a literature. I know not if our efforts to-day will be worthy to be remembered three or four hundred years hence, but they are in the line towards a literature which shall rise in sweetness and glory like the notes of MAURICE THOMPSON'S mocking bird. Beginning on the lowest branch with a harsh, deep utterance, giving scarcely an indication of sweetness, it rises bough after bough, singing more sweetly, more fully all the while, until seated upon the topmost quivering branch there flows one continual gush of irrepressible song. (Applause).

Prof. ALCÉE FORTIER (Tulane University) said :—

I wish to make a few remarks on Prof. BASKERVILL's paper, to which I listened with great pleasure. Prof. BASKERVILL has made a serious omission. He says in his paper that not one historian has been produced in the South; he has forgotten Mr. GHARLES GAYARRÉ who has been considered in this country and in Europe as a really great historian. Prof. JOYNES has said that a true portrayal of the old plantation life would be of great interest. My old friend, Mr. GAYARRÉ will be eighty-six next February. He was well acquainted with that plantation life and has described it admirably in Harper's *Magazine* (March 1887), in a paper called "A Louisiana Sugar plantation of the Old Régime." I cannot let this occasion pass without saying that Louisiana has produced a literature—a French literature. A certain author, whose name I shall not mention, has intimated that all Louisianians, who were of French or of Spanish origin, were barbarians and that they speak a jargon. My aim has been for the last few years to prove that this was entirely incorrect. In 1886, I had the pleasure of reading before the Convention at Baltimore a paper on the "French Literature of Louisiana," and I really believe that I have proved that we have a good literature and that we have had distinguished Poets, Novelists and Historians. All the various branches of literature have been cultivated by my countrymen in Louisiana, but it is not well known that we are entitled to the credit of writing in our mother-tongue and that we continue to write in that language, although our books are not read much outside of our own State. Although we remember our ancestors and are faithful to our family traditions, we are just as good Americans as anybody in Boston or in any New England state. This morning, Mr. BASKERVILL and Mr. JOYNES both spoke of the Creole, and I believe that the Creole has been mentioned in connection with the Negro. As there are many persons in this country who do not understand what a Creole is, I shall offer an explanation.

Prof. BASKERVILL in rising said :—

I did not mention the Creole in connection with the Negro any more than I mentioned the Southerner in the same connection.

Prof. FORTIER answered :—

Many persons believe that the Creole is of the Negro race. We mean in Louisiana by a Creole all the descendants of the early colonists, both French and Spanish. Now, that we are not of the colored race I shall ask you to determine by looking at me. (Laughter).

Mr. JOYNES said, if I understood him aright, that the Creoles were peculiar in their customs, institutions and literature. We do not want to be peculiar, we do not want to be different from any other men and women, but, if to remember the language of our forefathers, to keep it in the family, to speak it by our firesides to our children and our dear ones and to love the country from which our ancestors

came is to be peculiar, then we do not object to be so. Still I hope that we are not different from other people. I beg your pardon for taking up so much of your time, but whenever that subject comes up I feel that I must speak on it.

Prof. JOYNES remarked :—

I had gotten my opinion from reading Mr. CABLE.

Prof. FORTIER rejoined :—

Then it is but natural that you should have been led into error.

Prof. VAN DAELL said :—

The idea that Creoles are colored people seems to be very widely spread. After my first child was born we sent photographs to some friends in Europe, and from one of the ladies I received a letter congratulating me on the fact that the child had so white a complexion. (Laughter).

At the request of President FORTIER, Prof. KENT took the Chair and Prof. FORTIER then read his paper on

8. *The Acadians of Louisiana and their Dialect.*

The discussion on this paper was opened by Prof. A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT, who said :—

I hope that I may be pardoned for repeating what I have said on former occasions with regard to the character of papers like this one just laid before us, and those presented this morning. These contributions are so directly in the line of what was had in view in establishing this Association that when I find a monograph of the kind coming up, I heartily congratulate myself that we have formed ourselves into an organized body so as to treat such subjects systematically, that is to say, subjects bearing on our own literature, our own country and our own speech, or on the variety of speech and customs that exist in our country—that these varieties may be brought before scholars of Europe, in France, in Germany, in Great Britain, in order that they may see what we are doing, how many dialects, how many kinds of literature, what varied modes of life we have.

The subject that has just been presented to us is one of peculiar interest for me since it touches upon the three phases necessary for such a study: the history, the language and the literature of the Acadians. Prof. FORTIER's paper reminds me of an experience that I had in a tour of investigation made a few years ago through Canada. On the southern bank of the Saint Lawrence, about half way between Quebec and Montreal, I came across a little village, Saint-